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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 8 - 19 and 21 – 33 are pending in the application. Claims 8 – 19 and 21 – 33 have been rejected. Claims 28 and 29 have been voluntarily amended for clarification only. This amendment is not being made for reasons of patentability.

THE PERSONAL AND TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS

Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner, Yonel Beaulieu, for being readily available to discuss this application. Although no agreement was reached, Examiner Beaulieu talked with Applicants' Representative, Heidi M. Brun, Reg. No. 34,504, on April 8, 2003 in a personal interview and on June 30, 2003 over the telephone. The Examiner's Interview Summaries describe the two interviews.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 8, 9, 11 – 17, 19, 22 – 29 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Schneider et al. (US 4,856,072). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

The Examiner insists that item 22 of Schneider et al., which is a keypad sensor, meets the limitation of "a handwriting recognition unit" because "Given the broadest

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interpretation in examining the claimed invention, the definition provided by Applicants does not preclude the claimed limitation from being met because item 22 in Schneider provides for an operator to enter enable code; in other words, the information entered is recognized by the system; thus, this idea of handwriting recognition information.” (Office Action, Page 2, lines 6 – 10).

Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants are using the term “handwriting recognition unit” in a manner consistent with the requirements of MPEP §608.01(o), which states:

“The meaning of every term used in any of the claims should be apparent from the descriptive portion of the specification with clear disclosure as to its import; and in mechanical cases, it should be identified in the descriptive portion of the specification by reference to the drawing, designating the part or parts therein to which the term applies. A term used in the claims may be given a special meaning in the description. No term may be given a meaning repugnant to the usual meaning of the term.”

As required, Applicants are using the terms “handwriting recognition unit” in claim 25 and “recognition of … handwritten input” in claim 33 in a manner consistent with their definition in the specification and with the usual meanings of the terms. Moreover, the term “handwriting recognition” is not new with Applicants. It is used to refer to recognition of handwriting or “handwritten input” and, by the rules of English, “a handwriting recognition unit” must be a unit which recognizes handwriting.

Applicants have found a definition (see Appendix A enclosed), in the Webopedia (www.webopedia.com), which defines “handwriting recognition” as:

“The technique by which a computer system can recognize characters and other symbols written by hand. In theory, handwriting recognition should free us from our keyboards, allowing us to write and draw in a more natural way. It is considered one of the key technologies that will determine the ultimate success or

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failure of PDAs and other hand-held devices. To date, however, the technology has had only limited success. This is partly because it is still a young technology and is not as fast or accurate as it needs to be. Another reason for its slow acceptance, however, is that the keyboard is in fact more convenient in many situations. Many people can write much faster with a keyboard than they can by hand.”

The Webopedia definition is consistent with the many descriptions of the operation of handwriting recognition unit 44 that may be found within the instant specification. The following list is a partial listing of such:

a) Beginning at line 4 of the paragraph on Page 4 which begins “With reference to the drawings ...”:

“... by using handwritten commands through the use of handwriting recognition technology known in the art.”

b) Beginning at line 2 of the paragraph on Page 6 which begins “Device 20 ...”:

“Command recognition as used herein refers to handwritten or spoken command signals being recognized by a handwriting or voice recognizer engine and then matched with preprogrammed commands contained in a command data set which are associated with the command signal.”

c) The last paragraph on Page 6 which continues to Page 7:

“The handwriting recognizer 44 receives symbols provided by the user through handwriting pad 46. The handwriting pad is preferably located in a position convenient for the driver such as on the steering wheel or on the gearshift. Alternatively, handwriting commands may be input via an external touchpad, such as a laptop’s touchpad connected to device 20. A handwriting recognizer of the type suitable for this purpose is disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,659,633 and 5,774,582 and U.S. Patent Application Nos.

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08/528293, 08/418530, 08/282187, and 08/878741, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference. It will be appreciated that handwritten symbols corresponding to appliance commands may be trained by the user and/or provided in a pre-trained library of application specific commands.”

d) Lines 1 – 3 of the paragraph on Page 8 which begins with “The voice and handwriting …”:

“The voice and handwriting recognizers 38 and 44 search for a matching voice or handwriting command in a library of commands. There are preferably separate libraries for every appliance.”

As can be seen from the above, the terms “handwriting recognition” and “recognition of … handwritten input” are fully defined in the specification in a manner consistent with the use of the terminology in the art.

Applicants fail to see how any reasonable interpretation of the well-known term “handwriting recognition”, and the terms “handwriting recognition” and “recognition of … handwritten input” as presented in the specification might encompass a keypad sensor such as item 22 of Schneider et al., since such a keypad sensor cannot perform any of the operations of handwriting recognition as described in the Webopedia definition, nor any of those described in the specification of the present invention.

In the interviews, the Examiner said that he looked to the specification to define the meaning of the term “handwriting recognition unit”. Applicants do not understand the need for this since, as shown hereinabove, the term is well-known in the art.

The Examiner found the sentence:

“The handwriting recognizer 44 receives symbols provided by the user through handwriting pad 46.” (from the last paragraph on Page 6).

which he claimed covers the keypad sensor 22 of Schneider et al. Applicants strongly disagree. The sentence discusses a “handwriting recognizer” which term, by itself and

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without any connection to the rest of the sentence, requires a device which recognizes handwriting. This is not the same as nor remotely similar to keypad sensor 22 of Schneider et al. As mentioned in a previous response, the only commentary that Schneider et al. provide about keypad sensor 22 is that it receives “an operator entered code to enable the ignition and/or starter”. (col. 6, lines 30 – 31). Schneider et al. use the term “keypad” and not “handwriting recognition unit”. Thus, since Schneider et al. do not define keypad sensor 22 any further, they must be referring to a well-known term. As stated in the previous Response:

“Moreover, the word “keypad” is defined in the Global Statements Dictionary (www.globalstatements.com) as “see numeric keypad” and “numeric keypad” is defined as “a section of a computer keyboard or a small separate keyboard for typing digits and related characters”. (Copies of the relevant Web pages are enclosed herein). Thus, despite the Examiner’s statements to the contrary, the word “keypad” or “keypad sensor” does not mean, nor does it connote, a handwriting recognition unit.”

Schneider et al.’s keypad sensor 22 is not shown to have any location to enter handwriting, nor is it shown or described to have a unit which might recognize any such handwriting.

The fact that Schneider et al.’s keypad sensor “provides for an operator to enter enable code” (from OA, see full quote hereinabove) is not relevant since the term “handwriting recognition unit” is more specific than “code enterer” or “input device”. Moreover, the fact that “the information entered is recognized by the system;” (also from OA) is not exactly true. Schneider et al. say that the keypad sensor 22 receives the operator’s code; they do not say that item 22 “recognizes” the key, i.e. it does not perform any kind of pattern recognition, where “pattern recognition” is defined in the Webopedia as:

“An important field of computer science concerned with recognizing patterns, particularly visual and sound patterns. It is central to optical character

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recognition (OCR), voice recognition, and handwriting recognition" (see Appendix B enclosed).

Finally, the Examiner's conclusion, "thus, this idea of handwriting recognition information.", does not follow logically. The fact that Schneider et al.'s keypad sensor 22 provides input to a microcomputer 14 does not imply that it provides input as a result of handwriting recognition nor does Schneider et al. indicate that the keypad sensor might function for handwriting recognition.

Therefore, Schneider et al. does not teach or suggest "An apparatus comprising:" *inter alia* "a handwriting recognition unit to output at least one second command from said at least one command data set" as recited in claim 25. Schneider et al. also does not teach or suggest:

"A method comprising:

controlling at least one appliance within a vehicle with at least one signal generated from recognition of voice and handwritten input."

as recited in claim 33.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 8, 9, 11 – 17, 19, 22 – 29 and 33 are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to claims 8, 9, 11 – 17, 19, 22 – 29 and 33.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10, 21, 30 – 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Schneider et al. ('072) in view of Obradovich (US 6,282,464).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

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The Examiner stated that:

“Regarding Applicants’ arguments (page 3, the six paragraphs under Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103), the Examiner maintains Obradovich has not been relied upon for the teaching of the “handwriting recognition”. (Office Action, page 2, third paragraph)

Applicants understand that the Examiner did not rely on Obradovich for the teaching of “handwriting recognition”; however, as discussed above, Schneider et al. does not show any handwriting recognition and, as discussed previously, Obradovich does not teach “handwriting recognition”. Thus, the combination of Schneider et al. and Obradovich can not produce any of the inventions recited in claims 10, 21 and 30 – 32 since neither Schneider et al. nor Obradovich have any handwriting recognition.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to claims 10, 21, 30 – 32.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Petition For Two-Month Extension Of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136(a)

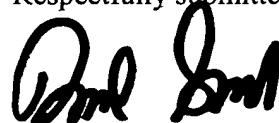
The period for responding to the instant Office Action was set to expire on June 12, 2003. Applicant hereby requests that the period for responding to the instant Office Action be extended by two (2) months, so as to expire on August 12, 2003. Accordingly, this response is being timely filed.

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The fee for a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time is Two Hundred and Five Dollars (\$205.00) dollars for a small entity. The United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account 501380 in the amount of \$205.00 and any additional fee which is necessary in connection with the filing of this petition and response.

Favorable action on this petition and response is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: August 11, 2003

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